

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 14547 221150Z

46

ACTION IO-06

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TRSE-00 SWF-01 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12

NEA-10 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 FEAE-00 INT-05 STR-04

CIEP-02 CEA-01 FRB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01

PA-02 USIA-15 OMB-01 TAR-01 SIL-01 LAB-03 /152 W

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TAGS: OCON, FAO, EAGR

SUBJ: COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS: ROUNDUP FIRST WEEK

FROM US DEL CCP

FODAG

1. /SUMMARY./ APART FROM REVIEW OF DRAFT UNDERTAKING ON
WORLD FOOD SECURITY (SEPTELS), FIRST WEEK OF CCP DEVOTED MAINLY
TO DISCUSSION GENERAL COMMODITY SITUATION AND INTERNATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT. DEBATE ROUTINE AND PER USUAL PATTERN
EXCEPT LDC BELLIGERENCY MORE PRONOUNCED. D-G BOERMA REPEATED
HIS CALL FOR URGENT MEETING TO DEAL WITH ALLEGED GRAIN CRISIS.

/END SUMMARY./

2. MAIN FEATURE FIRST WEEK WAS STILL INCOMPLETE CONSIDERATION
DRAFT UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, REPORTED SEPTELS.

3. OFFICERS ELECTED WERE JANTON (FRANCE), CHAIRMAN; SALAHUDDIN
(BANGLADESH), 1ST VICE CHAIRMAN; AND DIALLO (SENEGAL), 2ND,
VICE CHAIRMAN.

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PAGE 02 ROME 14547 221150Z

4. D-G BOERMAN IN OPENING ADDRESS REPEATED SUBSTANCE RECENT PRESS STATEMENT ON QUOTE CRISIS UNQUOTE IN GRAIN SUPPLIES AND PROPOSED URGENT CONSULTATION OF MAIN GRAIN TRADING COUNTRIES.

5. LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF COMMODITY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK FOLLOWED USUAL PATTERN, WITH LDC REPS STRESSING WORSENING OF THEIR POSITION. EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA MINIMIZED EFFECTS ON LDCS OF SHARP RISE IN OIL PRICES, CLAIMING INCREASED IMPORT COSTS OF BASIC FOODSTUFFS AND ESSENTIAL MANUFACTURERS SUPPLIED BY LDCS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT. OTHER LDGS CONCENTRATED ON LOWER EARNINGS OR WORSENING TERMS OF TRADE WITH DCS, APPARENTLY FEARFUL OF ANTAGONIZING OIL EXPORTERS.

6. AS EXPECTED, AGENDA ITEMS ON WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND QUOTE OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTION UNQUOTE CONSISTED LARGELY OF REPORTS BY SECRETARIAT, UNCTAD REP, AND OTHERS ON ACTIVITIES AND PLANS.

7. DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT WAS LOW KEY, WITH MANY SPEAKERS GRAPPLING INCONCLUSIVELY WITH COMPLEX SECRETARIAT PAPER ON ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGY AND POSSIBLE ACTION GUIDELINES. US (FRASER) NOTED NEED FOR RATIONAL USE OF FINITE RESOURCES OF WORLD, FAVORED PROPOSED EXPERTS MEETING, STRESSED ROLE OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION, AND NOTED THAT REFERENCE MATERIAL ON US AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS AND TRADE MEASURES WAS MUCH OUT OF DATE. IN SUMMING UP, AS PART OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S PROPOSED STRATEGY ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT, SECRETARIAT SAID DRAFT GUIDELINES (DOCUMENT 74/27/2) WILL BE FURTHER CONSIDERED BY A GROUP OF EXPERTS AND THAT AIM WAS TO NARROW LIST TO A FEW GUIDELINES WHICH COULD BE AGREED AT CONFERENCE AS A BEGINNING, WITH LIST TO BE EXPANDED LATER. SECRETARIAT ALSO CONSIDERING PROPOSING AS A FURTHER POSSIBLE MEASURE A DRAFT INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT. MANY DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH HASTE OF SECRETARIAT'S PRESENT TIMETABLE WHICH CALLS FOR CIRCULATION OF STRATEGY, INCLUDING GUIDELINES, IN MARCH 1975 FOR CONSIDERATION BY FAO COUNCIL IN JUNE PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER. SOME DELEGATIONS PROPOSED A SPECIAL SPRING SESSION OF THE CCP TO EXAMINE THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S PROPOSED STRATEGY IN GREATER DEPTH. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING U.S., ADVISED CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARIAT THAT THEY WERE OPPOSED TO SUCH A SPECIAL

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PAGE 03 ROME 14547 221150Z

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